



NOAA

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



Contact: Andrea Bair
801-524-5137

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 22, 2013

Officials to test tsunami warning system in central and southern California during Tsunami Preparedness Week

NOAA and the California Emergency Management Agency plan to conduct a test of the tsunami warning communications system on March 27 at approximately 10:15 a.m. Pacific Daylight Time in coastal areas of central and southern California.

NOAA's National Weather Service Offices in Monterey, Oxnard, and San Diego will broadcast the "Required Monthly Test". The test will also be broadcast on NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards, local television and radio stations.

Some television systems are programmed to scroll a standard emergency alert text message and in some cases, the message may not contain the word "TEST." An audio message will say that the message is only a test, but if the volume is turned down or otherwise unheard, viewers may not realize the message is a test.

To avoid confusion with an actual alert the test will be canceled if there is excessive seismic activity 24 hours prior to the test. People monitoring the test in coastal areas who do not receive it are asked to inform their local National Weather Service office. The public can provide feedback online at weather.gov/test.

The test is a cooperative effort between NOAA, the California Emergency Management Agency, California Broadcasters Association, and local emergency management officials in coastal California.

During National Tsunami Preparedness Week, March 24 -30, emergency managers urge coastal residents to review information on what to do in the event of a tsunami. NOAA's West Coast and Alaska Tsunami Warning Center Web site <http://wcatwc.arh.noaa.gov>, offers complete information, including the current status of tsunami watches, warnings and advisories. A list of frequently asked tsunami questions and answers can be found at <http://wcatwc.arh.noaa.gov/?page=help>.

NOAA's National Weather Service is the primary source of weather data, forecasts and warnings for the United States and its territories. NOAA's National Weather Service operates the most advanced weather and flood warning and forecast system in the world, helping to save lives and livelihoods and enhance the national economy. Working with partners, NOAA's National Weather Service is building a Weather-Ready Nation to support community resilience in the face of increasing vulnerability to extreme weather. Visit us online at weather.gov and join us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/NOAA).

NOAA's mission is to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and to conserve and manage our coastal and marine resources. Join us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/NOAA), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/NOAA) and our other [social media channels](#).

On the Web:

NOAA's National Weather Service: <http://www.weather.gov>

NOAA Tsunami Web site: <http://www.tsunami.noaa.gov/>

NOAA's West Coast and Alaska Tsunami Warning Center: <http://wcatwc.arh.noaa.gov>